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and the relations which the missionaries established with both imperial and revolutionary authorities are described with the vividness possible only to an eye witness.

The central chapters deal with the quiet and peace of the ordinary course of Chinese life. Incidents of daily life, summer journeys, the work of spreading the gospel and teaching the natives the lessons which western science has made common property for the rest of the world are recounted. Chinese wedding customs, travel, court procedure, legends and literature are sympathetically described.

An especially illuminating chapter is the one on Shanghai showing both the old and new town and describing the geographical, political and commercial influences which have transformed the obscure, unimportant port difficult of access into the bustling, commercial emporium of the present.

There follows a valuable commentary on the methods of missionaries. Both counsel as to what to avoid and the broad field of extra religious work in which the missionary must busy himself are given. The book closes with a retrospect and prospect. China unchanging, the author believes is not destined to be revolutionized in a day. The outward form of the government and civilization may be changed, but the spirit of the civilization which has proved satisfying to so many thousands of millions will be modified but slowly and on most points it needs no modification. In spite of new parliaments, republican institutions and programs the best of the old must continue. Indeed the author evidently has misgivings that the Chinese themselves may for a time accept the new too quickly, but believes that in the long run they will not stray far from the teachings which have made Chinese civilization so stable in the past. The influences which will transform China, and remove the objectionable features of her national life are those which work quietly through the new education and raising the position of women. In political change he has but scant confidence. "China will be best advised if she amends her constitution not by slavish copying of western models but by self-improvement and self-reform conserving as far as possible all that is just and beneficent in her own ancient system."

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**Munro, William B.** *The Initiative, Referendum and Recall.* Pp. viii, 365. Price \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1912.

This volume contains an introductory chapter by the editor, and some fourteen other chapters discussing critically and interestingly various aspects of the initiative, referendum and recall. The chapters are not limited to papers read before the National Municipal League. There seems to be an impression abroad that all of the volumes in this series are to be limited to papers published in that League's Proceedings. Such, however, has not been the case in any one of the volumes thus issued, nor is it to be the exclusive rule for any of the forthcoming volumes.

Professor Munro in his introductory chapter states the salient arguments for and against these new agencies of democracy. Other of the chapters, however,

present, in virile fashion, the arguments pro and con. These arguments are presented by those ardently supporting or opposing the measures, as the case may be, the volume being fairly well divided as to the space given to the opponents and proponents of these measures. The book is interesting and should be of great value at the present time.

It is always easy to point out omissions in such a volume as this, but most to be regretted is the omission of all discussion as to the statutory provisions for the initiative, referendum and recall. However, they are amply defined and illustrated and hence for general interest this omission may not be so serious. Those who wish to make a technical and detailed comparative study of such provisions can readily obtain them in such volumes as "Documents on the Initiative, Referendum and Recall" by Beard and Schultz.

This is the second number of the National Municipal League Series, edited by Clinton Rogers Woodruff, the first being on "City Government by Commission," and the third on "The Regulation of Municipal Utilities." The League plans other volumes which will give an open forum for the discussion of other current municipal problems. The League is unquestionably performing most valuable service in getting such a series before the public.

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**Notestein, W.** *A History of Witchcraft in England from 1558 to 1718.* Pp. xiv, 442. Price \$1.50. Washington: American Historical Association, 1911.

In this monograph Professor Notestein enters upon a field where few serious historical students have preceded him. He does not attempt to treat all phases of the subject in this pioneer work, but confines his attention to "a narrative history of the more significant trials along with some account of the progress of opinion" (p. v). Following a method of analysis of contemporary accounts of trials and of writings on the theory of witchcraft, he notes the fluctuations of popular belief in the superstition and of the administration of the law against witches in the 160 years which marked the height of the movement as well as its final decline in England. In the course of the narrative light is thrown on such topics as the spread of outbreaks against witches, the character and personality of those accused of the offense, the causes of such accusations, the nature of the evidence admitted and the use of torture in trials, and the changes in the conception of what constituted witchcraft.

The work is based on wide and painstaking research in a variety of sources. Among the most important of these are the contemporary pamphlet accounts of trials. Published to meet the demands of what to-day would be the newspaper-reading public, they dwell at length on the harrowing details, usually with little attempt at accuracy or impartiality. To the use of this difficult material the author seems to have applied discretion and sound judgment. He is careful to indicate what conclusions are to be considered tentative, and to distinguish between inference and fact. The general result is a scholarly and interesting account of a typical phase of the life of the period.

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